CLAIMS

[c1]   1.   A method in a switch for buffering data received through a source port before transmitting the data through a destination port, the method comprising:

receiving a first frame of data through the source port;

storing the received first frame of data;

receiving a second frame of data through the source port;

storing the received second frame of data;

selecting either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting through the destination port based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame.

[c2]   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second frames are stored in a buffer that is used to store frames received only through the source port.

[c3]   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

[c4]   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

[c5]   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c6]   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the first frame is stored in a first buffer and the second frame is stored in a second buffer and all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

[c7]   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is an interconnect fabric module.

[c8]   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c9]   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is InfiniBand compatible.

[c10]   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and wherein the second frame is selected.

[c11]   11.   The method of claim 1 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

[c12]   12.   A routing device comprising:
a first buffer for storing a first frame received through a source port;
a second buffer for storing a second frame received through the source port; and
a component that selects either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting through a destination port based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame.

[c13]   13.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein each source port of the routing device has a first and second buffer and a component that selects.

[c14]   14.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the first and second buffer are used to store frames received only through the source port.

[c15]   15.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

[c16]   16.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

[c17]   17.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c18]   18.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

[c19]   19.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

[c20]   20.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c21]   21.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c22]   22.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected.

[c23]   23.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

[c24]   24.   The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is a switch.

[c25]   25.   A routing device comprising:

means for storing a first frame received at the routing device;

means for storing a second frame received at the routing device; and

means for selecting either the first frame or the second frame for

transmitting based on a priority score of the first frame and the

second frame.

[c26]   26.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein each source port of the routing device has a means for storing and a means for selecting.

[c27]   27.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the means for storing are used to store frames received through only one source port.

[c28]   28.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

[c29]   29.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

[c30]   30.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c31]   31.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein all frames of a connection are stored by the same means for storing.

[c32]   32.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

[c33]   33.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c34]   34.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c35]   35.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected by the means for selecting.

[c36]   36.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame by the means for selecting.

[c37]   37.   The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is a switch.